

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Official Action dated June 29, 2004. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-14 are under consideration in this application. Claims 1-6 and 8-14 are being amended as requested by the Examiner. Applicants hereby submit that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Formality Objections and Rejection

The drawings were objected to for various informalities, including various errors in the reference numerals and reference terms used in the drawings. The Title of the Invention was objected for being non-descriptive of the claimed invention, but has suggested an alternative wording that he would find acceptable. The Abstract of the Disclosure and the specification were objected to for other informalities. Claims 2, 3, 6 and 8-14 were objected to for various informalities in the wording of the claims, and claims 2-5 and 8-14 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, for being indefinite. As indicated, the claims, the specification and drawings have been amended as required by the Examiner. Accordingly, the withdrawal of the outstanding formality objection and rejection is in order, and is therefore respectfully solicited.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-14 were rejected under judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over at least claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,653,890, which is the parent application of this currently pending application. The Examiner contended that although the claims are not identical, however, they are not patentably distinct. A terminal disclaimer is being submitted according to the Examiner's suggestion. Accordingly, the withdrawal of the outstanding double patenting rejection is in order, and is respectfully solicited.

Allowed Subject Matters

Claims 1-14 would be allowed if all formal objections, and the formal and double-patenting rejections could be overcome. As the claims are being amended as required by the Examiner, they are in condition for allowance.

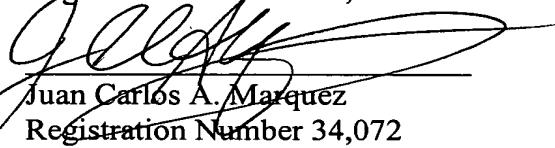
Conclusion

In view of all the above, clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art reference upon which the rejections in the Office Action rely, Applicant respectfully contends that the prior art references cannot anticipate the present invention or render the present invention obvious. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please enter the attached corrected drawings Figs. 12-13, wherein a circuit connecting point is being shifted from vban to vbap in Fig. 12 and a reference number "135" is being changed into "35" in Fig. 13, to replace Figs. 12-13 as originally filed. A Letter to Draftsperson is also submitted herewith.